

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/602,247

Examiner

Paul Nguyen-Ba

Applicant(s)

SEATTLE ET AL.

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicant's Arguments filed on 2/2/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 17 and 19-21.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).


* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


HEATHER R. HERNDON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT / REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.



2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Roger T. Frost on 4/24/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

AMENDED ABSTRACT

3. The Abstract has been replaced by the following:

A Format Consistency Checker (FCC) for monitoring and enhancing text formatting within a document. The FCC builds and maintains a data table tracking all formatting "runs" within a document. The FCC operates in combination with a formatting pane, for adding formatting to a document. The formatting pane provides a log, maintained in a user interface that can be displayed in the same window as a document being edited, of all formatting in the document. A format checker determines a minority case of formatting within a particular document and offers a user an opportunity to modify the minority case formatting to make it consistent with the majority case. A bullets and numbering component determines how bullets and/or numbering have been previously applied in the document. The current format of the

bullets and/or numbering is then set to be consistent with the majority case of bullets and/or numbering formatting in the document.

AMENDED CLAIM LANGUAGE

4. Claim 17 has been replaced by the following:

17. (Amended) A method for improving formatting consistency within a document, implemented at least in part by a computing device, comprising:

determining a formatting run within a document, wherein the formatting run is the smallest section of text within the document having the same formatting attributes;

comparing the formatting run to a consistency rule set;

determining whether an inconsistency of the formatting run exists relative to the consistency rule set;

in response to determining that an inconsistency exists, identifying a majority case and a minority case of inconsistencies, wherein:

a majority case is a set of formatting properties that is associated with the most formatting runs in the document having an analogous formatting property. And

a minority case is a set of formatting properties that is inconsistent with the majority case as the inconsistency is defined by the consistency rule set; and
revealing the minority case and the majority case to a user.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's particular computer-implemented method of identifying and revealing to a user a majority case (*a set of formatting properties that is associated with the most formatting runs in the document having an analogous formatting property*) and a minority case (*a set of formatting properties that is inconsistent with the majority case as the inconsistency is defined by the consistency rule set*) of inconsistencies within a document (see Specification – pg. 15, 2nd full paragraph) would not have been obvious over, nor would have been fairly suggested by the closest prior art of record.

The closest prior art of record, Razin, in view of Felt et al., in further view of Fein et al., in further view of Newbold et al., teach a method for improving formatting consistency within a document comprising determining a formatting run within a document (see *Razin - col. 3, lines 28-41; col. 5, lines 1 et seq.*), wherein the formatting run is the smallest section of text within the document having the same formatting attributes (see *Felt - Abstract; col. 5, lines 34-67 et seq.; see also Figs. 2-5*); comparing the formatting run to a consistency rule set (see *Razin - col. 3, lines 46-67 to col. 4, lines 1-34*); determining whether an inconsistency of the formatting run exists relative to the consistency rule set exists (see *Razin - col. 4, lines 31-34; col. 14, lines 45-59*); in response to determining that an inconsistency exists, identifying a major format property

and a minor format property of inconsistencies (see *Fein - Abstract and Fig. 2A*), and revealing the formatting inconsistencies to the user (see *Newbold - Abstract*).

However, the closest prior art of record, Razin, in view of Felt et al., in further view of Fein et al., in further view of Newbold et al., do not explicitly teach or suggest identifying and revealing inconsistencies to a user wherein the majority case is defined specifically as *a set of formatting properties that is associated with the most formatting runs in the document having an analogous formatting property* and a minority case is defined specifically as *a set of formatting properties that is inconsistent with the majority case as the inconsistency is defined by the consistency rule set*.

The prior art of record only teaches predetermined set of formatting properties that are designated as Major Formatting Properties and Minor Formatting Properties (see *Fein – Tables 1 and 2*). These formatting properties have no correlation to the smallest section of text having the same formatting attributes as claimed by Applicant's instant invention. The closest prior art fails to anticipate or render Applicant's limitation above obvious.

Conclusion

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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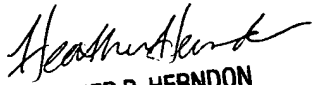
accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Nguyen-Ba whose telephone number is (571) 272-4094. The examiner can normally be reached on 11 am - 7 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (571) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PNB


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